

Amendments

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A database system embodied in computer-readable media, the database system comprising:

a database;

a plurality of application tools, each of the tools being configured to access data objects from the database, the tools comprising:

a business reporting tool which performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from a data buffer, and

a business planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer;

the data buffer configured to store a copy of the data objects accessed from the database; and

a delta buffer configured to store a delta record, wherein the delta record characterizes a difference between the data objects and a modified version of the data objects, the modified version being a result of a change made by the one of the application tools to the data objects accessed from the database, the data objects buffered in the data buffer having a logical key corresponding to a database of the data object, a description of an aggregation level, and a description of a selection condition, the business reporting tool and the business planning tool requesting data from the data buffer having a specified aggregation level and a specified selection condition.

2. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer is configured to generate a cumulative delta record.

3. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the database is a multidimensional database.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and each delta record has a corresponding request identifier, and wherein the request identifier is usable by a data object to represent the one or more delta records that have been used to update a data object.
6. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and the database system is configured to store the at least one delta record with data in the database.
7. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the data buffer and the delta buffer are parts of a system memory of a computer system.
8. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer is configured to compress two or more delta records to generate a cumulative delta record.
9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
 - reading data from a database;
 - storing a data object in a data buffer, wherein the data object includes the data read from the database;
 - accessing the data object from the data buffer with one of a plurality of application tools, the tools comprising:
 - a business reporting tool which performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer, and

a business planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer;

storing, in a delta buffer, a delta record characterizing a difference between the data object and a modified version of the data object, the modified version being a result of a change to the data object made by one of the application tools; and

updating the data object in the data buffer with the delta record, the data object buffered in the data buffer having a logical key corresponding to a database of the data object, a description of an aggregation level, and a description of a selection condition, the business reporting tool and the business planning tool requesting data from the data buffer having a specified aggregation level and a specified selection condition.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:

compressing the delta buffer, wherein compressing the delta buffer includes generating a cumulative delta record.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:

storing the delta buffer in the database, wherein storing the delta buffer in the database includes integrating the one or more delta records in the delta buffer with the corresponding data in the database.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the database is a multidimensional database.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:

associating the delta record with a request identifier, wherein the request identifier is usable by a data object to represent the one or more delta records that have been used to update a data object.

14. (Currently Amended) An integrated business planning and reporting platform embodied in computer-readable media, the platform comprising:

- a database storing data;
- a data buffer configured to store one or more data objects, wherein the at least one data object includes data read from the database;
- a business reporting tool which performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer;
- a business planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer; and
- a delta buffer configured to store a delta record characterizing a difference between the data objects and a modified version of the data objects, the modified version being a result of a change made to the one or more data objects by the reporting tool, the planning tool, or both, the data objects buffered in the data buffer having a logical key corresponding to a database of the data object, a description of an aggregation level, and a description of a selection condition, the business reporting tool and the business planning tool requesting data from the data buffer having a specified aggregation level and a specified selection condition.

15. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

- a server program configured to manage the data buffer.

16. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

- a server program configured to manage the delta buffer.

17. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the reporting tool and/or planning tool generates the delta record.

18. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer stores at least one delta record and each delta record corresponds to a request identifier, wherein

the request identifier represents at least one delta record that has been used to update a data object.

19. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer is configured to compress two or more delta records to generate a cumulative delta record.

20. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and the database system is configured to store the at least one delta record in the database, wherein storing the at least one delta record includes integrating the at least one delta record with data in the database.

21. (New) An integrated business planning and reporting platform embodied in computer-readable media, the platform comprising:

- a database storing data;

- a data buffer configured to store one or more data objects, wherein the at least one data object includes data read from the database;

- a business reporting tool which displays reports and performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer;

- a business planning tool, visually integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer; and

- a delta buffer configured to store a delta record characterizing a difference between the data objects and a modified version of the data objects, the modified version being a result of a change made to the one or more data objects by the reporting tool, the planning tool, or both, the business planning tool being operable to receive-user generated input modifying the data objects accessed from the data buffer thereby resulting in a modification of a report being concurrently displayed by the reporting tool.